Numb. 32.

THE OBSERVATOR.

Observator Vindicated from some Reflections in a Letter sent to him. On the present Danger from the Papists *and* Non-jurant *Clergy-men. On a Clergy-man that Dy'd a* Papist *in the Isle of* Wight.

From Saturday July the 24th, to Wednesday July the 28th, 1703.

Country-m. MAster *Observator*, here's a Letter sent you by your Printer; it was left for at his House; he says, He believes the Person that sent it was none of the Honestest.

Obs. I am Accused of two or three great Crimes in this Letter: One is, That I do not insist in my Discourse against the *Jews*; another, that I have forgot the *Papists*; and the honest Gentleman that Wrote this Letter (I pray God give him more Charity in Judging than he does not know) has a shrewd Suspicion I am Brib'd from the Service of my Country in these Particulars.

I know no Reason why I should Oblige a Person with an Answer to his Letter, that has thought fit to conceal his Name and Place of Abode: He pretends himself a good Patriot, and when he has done as much against the *Jews* and *Papists* as I have done I shall believe him to be what he pretends. I have given you an Account of the Laws in Force against the *Jews* and *Papists*; and of the Necessity of putting in Execution those Laws which would be a Task worthy the Care of so good a Patriot as the Writer of this Letter; and this he may do: For every *one*, a Native of this Realm, may, in Her Majesties Name, and by Her Majesties Authority, put the Laws in Execution against Her Majesties Enemies. I hope he does not take me to be an *Atlas*, able to bear the whole Burden he seems to lay on my Shoulders; let every Man in *England* do as much for the good of our Country as I have done, and then no one of 'em all need fear suffering as much as I have done.

You see *Robin Hog*, the Wild Boar of the City of *London*, was let Loose against me the last Sessions, and Threatens to Devour me the next; and this only for Writing against *Papists* and *Popery* Now if such an Execrable Fellow as *Robin Hog*, has Courage enough to Prosecute me for Writing against the *Papists*, why has not this good Patriot Courage enough to Prosecute the *Papists*? Besides, it is unknown to his Person what I have done in this Respect; how then can he Accuse me of any Failure in my Duty? I can tell him that but a few days ago a Commission pass'd for the Recovery of Lands given to Superstitious Uses, and to maintain Seminaries Abroad for the Educating of the Youth of *England* in the *Popish* Religion: I think this is one good Step, for hereby we cut down the very Bough on which the *Papists* do sit: Now if this Zealous Gentleman pleases to find out any Land given after the manner aforesaid, I dare engage the Gentlemen to whom that Commission is pass'd, will give him Hearty Thanks, and all due Encouragement; I don't say Protection, after the manner of the good People of the *Admiralty*.

There are many things worthy the Enquiry of this good Patriot, as how and by what means so many *Papists* have come to *England* from *France* and other places since the Declaration of War? Whether we have no *English Protestant* in *Holland* capable of Business; but that one *Pennington* of *Rotterdam*, a profess'd *Papist*, and *Organist* to a *Popish Chappel*, is Employ'd as an Officer to stop Deserters from the *English* Army: and before the War, he was Husband and Fitter to Mrs. *Dummers Slopps*: I could put him upon Enquiries, I'll Warrant him, would quickly Cool his Courage, and Burn his Fingers worse than mine were like to have been Burnt the last Sessions.

As to what he says in Relation to the *Jews*, I think my self much Abused: I have spoke as much as I thought convenient, and indeed was necessary, on that Subject: What I have more to say in relation to those People is to be done in another Manner and Place. I have given Publick Notice of my Intentions, and several honest Gentlemen have contributed to my Design, by giving me Authentick Accounts of the Evil Practices of the *Jews* at present in *England*, and if this Gentleman pleases to give me any such Accounts well Attested, I shall Heartily thank him.

He is empowered also to prosecute the *Jews* as well as the *Papists*, and if he be as good a Patriot as he pretends, let Him make Enquiry whether any of the *Jews* are admitted Freemen or Livery-men of any of the Companies of *London*, or have any Stock in any of the Companies of Foreign Trade; and then Consult with the Learned in the Law how to Prosecute them, and the Companies which admitted them Members.

But I must beg this Gentlemans Pardon if I write my Paper as I think most fit, since I am to answer for the Faults and Errours contained in it. Besides, any other Person has as much Authority to direct me as this Man, and if I should follow every ones Directions, I should make a fine piece of Business.

Country-m. I protest, Mr. *Observator*, I wish there was a Short Way found out with the *Papists*, they are so Numerous about *London* and *Westminster*, the like has not been known for many Years; they are very Impudent and Insolent, as we may see by the Bill Presented against

againſt you the laſt Seſſions, and by the threats of that Party every Day againſt you.

Obſ. The Shorteſt Way with the *Papiſts*, is to Cauſe the *Foreigners* to depart the Kingdom, according to Law and Antient Cuſtom, when the King and Realm were in danger; as alſo to put the Laws in Execution againſt ſuch as are Natives, either *Clergy* or *Laity*; but this, you know, is none of my Buſineſs; and I am afraid we have too many among us that are not of us, nor for us; *Wolves* in *Sheeps Clothing*, who only wait an opportunity to devour the Flock. I have by ſome Men been Deem'd Uncharitable when I have Accuſed ſuch for *Papiſts*, as have refuſed to take the Oaths to the late Government, and to Her preſent Majeſty: If I am in an Errour, I Beg Forgiveneſs of God and Men, but as yet I can find no Reaſon to Retract the Opinion I have given: For the great Numbers of *Papiſts*, Native and Foreign, which are lately come over, in Conjunction with the Affair of St. *Germains*, confirms me in my Opinion, eſpecially when the *Non-jurors*, are the only Friends and Abettors of the *Papiſts*.

I could never believe the *Non jurant* Clergy of *England* and *Scotland* were any other than Prieſts in Orders Abroad, and crept into our Church, on purpoſe to Ruin and Deſtroy its Eſtabliſhment. For there can be no two things more alike, than a *Non jurant*-Clergy-man, and one of the Sect of *Ignatius Loyola*; they have the ſame Deſignes upon *England*, *viz.* a *French Government*, and a *Popiſh Succeſſor*. They are Men of the ſame Principles in Reſpect to Government, and have both of 'em an Implicite Faith. If ever theſe Men are Countenanc'd, we cannot have the leaſt Security of *Religion*, *Liberty* or *Law*. They make Specious pretences to the Church of *England*, and Sing *Hoſannah* to its Eſtabliſhment on the *Pinacle* of the Steeple; when every one of them is the *Popes Proteus*, and like Old *Obadiah*, or the *Putney Proſelite*, can change their Note as Occaſion ſhall Require. We have a late Inſtance, that the Habit of a Clergy-man of our Church, can cover a Votary of the Church of *Rome*. A Clergy-man (whoſe Name I ſhall not mention, becauſe Deſcended from an Honourable *Proteſtant* Family) after he had finiſhed his Studies at *Oxford*, was Tranſplanted thence to *Gattcombe* in the *Iſle of Wight*, a Parſonage in the Gift of his own Family, where he Exerciſed the Office of a Miniſter of the Church of *England* for ſeveral Years. After the Revolution he continued to Pray for the Late King *James*, until ſuch time as he was Silenc'd, and he remain'd afterwards a *Non-jurant* Clergy-man, and Chaplain to his own Family, which has a conſiderable Eſtate in the *Iſle of Wight*. A few Weeks ago this Clergyman dyes, and had ſo ordered it, that at his Funeral a written paper ſhould be opened, wherein he declares to the World, he dies a true Member of the Church of *Rome*. When I was a Youth in that Iſland, we us'd to boaſt of two particular Bleſſings that ſpot of Land enjoy'd above any of the like Extent in *England*, *viz.* That there was not one *Papiſt*, nor one *Fox* in the whole Iſland, and yet at that time this very was *Parſon* of *Gattcombe*; ſo that we ſee may be miſtaken in our Thoughts of happi we may think our ſelves fartheſt from when we are neareſt to it, and that we have *Papiſts* among us, when we are ſurrounded *Prieſts* and *Jeſuits*, who like the Demons o Air are inviſible, and like the Devil do Te Mankind in Shapes moſt pleaſing to our M and Natures. It would be well for Her jeſty and Realm, if thoſe Diſguiſed Chu men were diſcovered, who by their Spec pretences and Zeal for the Church mi Her Majeſties *People* from their Obedienc their Lawful Soveraign. For my part I can and Charitably Diſtinguiſh them in the *N* of *Non jurors*, who bid Defiance to Her jeſties Title by their Refuſal of the Oath *taking of which*, Sir *Francis Walſingham* in Letter to Monſieur *Critoy*, ſays, *Is one of Fundamental parts of Juſtice in this Land.*

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